

In The Abstract

Please amend the Abstract as follows and set forth on attached sheet hereto:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~The invention relates to h~~Hyaluronic acid butyric esters which the hydroxyl groups of hyaluronic acid are partially esterified with butyric residues, characterised by a degree of substitution with butyric residues (ratio of number of butyric acid residues to disaccharide units GicNAc-GicUA of hyaluronic acid) being equal or below 0.1. These esters with low degree of substitution are obtained by ~~means of a~~ process carried out in the homogeneous phase under anhydrous conditions, wherein hyaluronic acid is used in the form of a quaternary nitrogen salt. The esters ~~of the invention~~ have a greater antiproliferative activity than corresponding esters with higher degree of substitution, and are particularly active against primary and metastatic tumours, where ~~said~~the tumours are primary of hepatic origin, or are hepatic metastases. A further aspect ~~of the invention~~ is represented by pharmaceutical compositions, containing as active principle at least one of the esters ~~described~~.